

# Flight Jacket

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## News

**HMH-361 commanding officer logs 3,000 flight hours**

Page 2

**Marines clean up base during 2nd Annual MWCS-38 Trash Run**

Page 2

**Reflections of Black history in today's Marine Corps**

Page 4

## Features

**Miramar basketball takes Coronado Islanders to the hoop**

Page 6

**Flying Tiger Marines maintain Super Stallions at MDTC**

Page 7

**HMH-161 prepares for MEU deployment**

Page 8

## Quote

**"I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it."**

— Jonathan Winters  
comedian and former Marine



photo by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

Cpl. Jason A. Palmer, an HMH-361 crew chief, mans his .50-caliber machine gun at the door of a CH-53E "Super Stallion" as it performs defensive maneuvers during Marine Division Tactics Course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 2.

## Flying Tigers tear up desert during MDTC

by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

PAO, MCAS Miramar

MCAS YUMA, Ariz.—The Flying Tigers of Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 arrived here from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Jan. 31, as part of the Marine Division Tactics Course here.

The MDTC is designed to train the CH-53E Super Stallion pilots and crews on defensive and tactical maneuvers. The MDTC also acts as a precursor for HMH-361 aircrews who will attend the upcoming Weapons and Tactics Instructor course here, March 4.

Fourteen pilots and about 50 crew members from '361 were involved in the five day evolution. Together, maintenance and aircrew put four Super Stallions in the air for more than 64 hours before heading home.

The Flying Tigers performed defensive maneuvers against adversaries in fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft, as well as ground-based radar components. The aerial elements were played out by VMFT-401 "Aggressors" in F-14s and F-5s based here. Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267 "Stingers" UH-1N "Huey" and AH-1W "Cobra" helicopters, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif played the rotary-wing aggressors. An Air Force

Early Warning and Control Systems E3-A was also on hand for the maneuvers.

"The purpose of MDTC is to train fixed-wing pilots to come out here and use division tactics to work in coordination with the fixed- and rotor-wings," said Lt. Col. Fred Wenger III, commanding officer, HMH-361. "This is a requirement for them to come to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 as a student. The training they go through here is the Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course."

Wenger said the Flying Tigers added more realism to the fixed-wing training while gaining good training for themselves.

During the course, Flying Tigers flew Terrain Flights, called TERF maneuvers; Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel, called TRAP missions; Defensive Maneuvers training, and Night Systems Instructor training.

"Our number one priority out here was to support the MDTC to train the fixed-wing pilots, so they can come to MAWTS-1 and go through the WTI course," began Wenger. "Second was our Night Systems Instructor training, and third was our DM flights."

This was the first time the squadron was invited to participate in the course,

See MDTC, Page 11

## MWSS-373 tackles RV lot in ongoing quest for training

by Cpl. Kimberly L. Wilkie

PAO, MCAS Miramar

The Marine Corps Community Services' new recreational vehicle parking lot expansion project here, was completed Friday with the help of Marine Wing Support Squadron 373's heavy equipment operators.

Everyday since Feb. 1, 10 Marines have been working on the 300-by-177 foot area, said Sgt. Ronald Gillaspie, MWSS-373 site foreman and heavy equipment operator.

"Most of the Marines have been in the fleet for a year or two. They know what they're doing, but this project was good for refreshing," said Gillaspie.

A great deal of work went into the reformation of the lot, compared to the minimal amount of time '373 spent with the project.

"The Base Realignment And Closure construction crews piled dirt, rubble and trees here. The lot



photo by Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

MWSS-373's diesel-fueled C-1155E tracked scoop moves rubble, junk and clay dirt into a pile to make way for the Miramar's new RV parking lot.

was overgrown with weeds and brush. Basically, we've taken the rubble out and made sure everything is flat," said Gillaspie.

MWSS-373's heavy equipment operators used a team of diesel-fueled heavy equipment consisting of a C-1155E tracked scoop, a Tram

644E tired scoop loader, a Caterpillar 1306 roadgrader and two 5-ton dump trucks to haul off rubble, junk and dirt.

According to Gillaspie, everything will be hauled to the Miramar dump.

In addition to some of the smaller building projects the Marines have worked on recently, such as finishing work inside the Lifelong Learning Center, building a new pistol range and now the RV lot. They also have an upcoming project consisting of building a helicopter landing pad in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

However, despite what they have done in the past, their knowledge makes them capable of doing much more. Their primary focus is the much larger task of always being ready to transform the landscape of the most austere environments into expeditionary airfields. With their skills and equipment, the Marines can literally construct an air station anywhere, anytime.

It is these ongoing projects that help keep the Marines of MWSS-373 sharp for just such an occasion.



# Flight Jacket



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Commanding General  
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

**Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon**  
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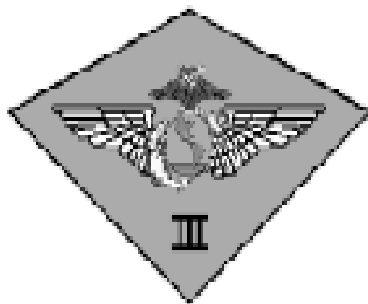
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## Flying Tiger surpasses 3,000 flight hours

by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

PAO, MCAS Miramar

**MCAS YUMA, Ariz.** — Lt. Col. Fred Wenger III, commanding officer, Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 reached an impressive milestone over the desert near Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 1.

The top-ranking "Flying Tiger" flew past his 3,000 hour mark at the stick of a Marine aircraft, while performing Terrain Flight maneuvers. TERF maneuvers require a pilot to navigate at very low altitudes, as part of training during the Marine Corps Division Tactics Course here.

Wenger has flown many types of helicopters, including CH-53 Alphas, Deltas, and Echoes, the TH-57 Jet Ranger, and the UH-1N Huey. In addition, he has fixed-wing experience in the T-34C Mentor trainer aircraft, KC-130 Hercules, and B-52, as well as a host of civilian aircraft.

Known by his call sign, "Fearless," Wenger began flying when he came into the Marine Corps through the Platoon Leader course with an air contract 18 years ago. Though 3,000 flight hours weren't a goal of his, it was exciting to achieve, according to Wenger.

"To tell the truth, I just fly," said Wenger. "Then, it's 3,000 hours ... gee, I'm here now. I can remember beginning flying with '361, because this was the first squadron I checked into, and you fly a lot. At that point, you are always after hours, but eventually you just fly and the hours accrue."

Wenger is proud to have accomplished the 3,000 mishap-free hours with '361, since he made his first 1,000 back in 1986 on his first tour with the Flying Tigers.

He has also been part of many military and humanitarian missions during those hours. "I participated in Operation Earnest

See Wenger, Page 11



photo by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

**Lt. Col. Fred Wenger III, HMH-361 commanding officer, walks away from his CH53E "Super Stallion" after reaching 3,000 career flight hours, during the Marine Division Tactic Course, at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 1.**

## MWCS-38 makes an exercise of cleanliness

by Cpl. Kimberley L. Wilkie

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines from Marine Wing Communication Squadron 38 conducted the Second Annual Trash Run, Feb. 4.

Five teams of about six Marines each ran throughout the mainside of the air station to gather as much trash as they could find.

"Our goal is to clean up the base and get some physical training out of it," said Staff Sgt. John S. Kob, super high frequency chief.

The creator of the event, Staff Sgt. Robert W. Cates, radio maintenance chief, said the run is intended to reinforce the Marine Corps' belief that you should always make the place you're at better, and that you should always leave things better than you found them.

In all, about 40 Marines participated in the event. Each team had an hour-and-a-half



photo by Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

**(From left to right) Sgt. Jeffrey Bonasse and Cpl. John P. Burke, switch board technicians, Team 4, collect litter during the Second Annual MWCS-38 Trash Run.**

to canvas their assigned area and gather as much trash as possible. The team with the most trash won.

Last year a larger number of Marines were able to gather enough trash to fill a dumpster. According to Cates, the air sta-

tion is much cleaner this year. However, by using support teams to pick up trash at assigned drop-off points, fewer Marines were able to collect nearly 50 percent more trash this year.

Items collected included tires, a car door, pipes, Christmas decorations and more. All trash collected was sorted and recycled appropriately, bringing more funds to the air station's Marine Corps Community Services fund, according to Cates. Team 5, led by Sgt. Phillip D. Coles, radio repairman, won the event. He said the event is a "win-win" event. He explained it gives the Marines a teamwork exercise, an opportunity to participate in physical training,

and help the community at the same time. For their efforts, the Marines on the winning team will have their names inscribed on the squadron's "Trash Run" plaque and receive a 72-hour liberty period.

## Avoid the bug

## Learn to recognize just how sick is too sick

by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

PAO, MCAS Miramar

With flu season in full swing and hospital emergency rooms being swamped with patients, it is important for Marines to recognize the signs of the flu and learn preventive measures.

Marines may scoff or assume having influenza, commonly known as the flu, is "no big deal." Not only can it leave Marines temporarily bed-ridden, but every year 50,000 lives are lost due to complications from the flu, according to <http://content.health.msn.com>. It was complications from the flu that killed Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets and Sesame Street.

Because of the potentially severe outcome of the flu, recognizing the signs and being able to distinguish it from the common cold is important. Preventive mea-

sures, and knowing the symptoms can also keep the flu from progressing.

The differences between the flu, stomach flu or the common cold depends on the types of symptoms and intensity. "A cold generally starts out with some minor sniffing and sneezing, but the flu hits you at once. You're fine one hour and in bed the next. A cold rarely moves into the lungs; the flu can cause pneumonia," according to the Web site.

Also, most Marines can function at work and will only feel miserable with the cold. Having the flu can leave a Marine sick in bed. However, there are some signs shown in the accompanying table that can indicate a more serious problem.

Flu symptoms include: dry cough, sore throat, severe headache, general muscle aches or backache, extreme fatigue, chills, fever up to 104 degrees Fahrenheit and pain or burning when moving your eyes.

Cold symptoms include: sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, cough, congested ears, headaches, dizziness and swollen glands.

Stomach flu symptoms include nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

Once a Marine knows whether he has the flu, he can employ home health-care measures. Measures include drinking lots of hot fluids like chicken broth, which soothes the throat, unplugs the nose and rehydrates. Gargling with warm salt water and eating cough drops also helps throat symptoms.

Also, coughing helps break up the mucus in the lungs and allows Marines to rid their bodies of it. Washing your hands keeps it from spreading to other people.

Unfortunately, there are no cures for

See Flu, Page 10

## Men of Montford Point

The Montford Point Marines Assocaition has recently established a Southern California Chapter of the organization and is looking for prospective members. For more information on the history of Montford Point and the organization, contact the Web site [aol.com/nubiansong/montford](http://aol.com/nubiansong/montford)

## Semper fit seeks resumes for Taekwondo trials

Applications are being accepted at the Semper Fit center for the April 5-10 Taekwondo trials being held at Fort Indiantown, Pa. Resumes must be submitted no later than Feb. 28 and Marines must have command endorsements. For more information, call Anne Panattoni at 577-4157.

## Armed Services essay contest being offered

The Armed Services YMCA is holding an essay contest for high school students and other contests for younger children of military families, who write about the importance of reading. The deadline for entries is March 21. More information can be picked up at the library or call 577-1261.

## Firefighters Adopt-A-Highway, volunteers needed

The International Association of Firefighters Local F-289 has adopted a section of the Interstate 15 starting at Carroll Canyon Road. This adoption is one way the firefighters give back to the community. They encourage interested personnel to come by the fire station and assist them in their clean up efforts. For more information, call 577-1942.

## All-Marine baseball team tryouts begin

All-Marine baseball tryouts will be held April 1 and 8, at 9 p.m. at MCB Camp Pendleton's "mainside," baseball field. Tryouts are open to all Marines. For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Dawson at 577-1479 or Lance Cpl. Vaught at 577-6008.

## Miramar hosts a Domino tournament

Miramar is hosting a Domino tournament March 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Enlisted Club here. The tournament is open to all Marines. The entry fee is \$7 in advance and \$10 the day of the event. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ebron at 577-1939.

## Base printing press opens

The Station Reproduction Office is open Monday-Friday from 6:30 a.m. -4 p.m. The office is located in Building 2273 on the north side of the recycling office. For more information, call Mike Keller at 577-8449 or Master Gunnery Sgt. San Nicolas at 577-1555.

## New parenting support program available

Starting Feb. 25, a free, six-week workshop for active-duty Marines and spouses will be taught by the Marine New Parent Support program at the Branch Medical Clinic here. Classes meet every Friday from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Class topics include holding and feeding infants, labor, delivery, baby's health and other important information about caring for babies. For more information, call Donna Ronan at 577-9812.

## Become a piece of history

The Marine Corps Drill Instructors Association is seeking members from any Marine Corps association, corporation or individuals to add an engraved brick to the monuments being erected at Marine Corps Recruiting Depots Parris Island, S.C. and San Diego, in the honor of past and present drill instructors. The bricks have three lines of 15 characters and cost \$100 per brick. For more information, call (619) 688-0864/9631 or e-mail at [natdiassn@netscape.net](mailto:natdiassn@netscape.net).

## 2000 Camp Pendleton race series begins

Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Community Services is holding a series of races throughout the year. The first race offered is a 30-mile-bike-race at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 4, at 8:30 a.m. The race is open to everyone. Cost for registration prior to Feb. 25 is \$15 and \$20 after. People can register online at [www.mccscamppendleton.com](http://www.mccscamppendleton.com). For more information, call (760) 725-6836/6195.

## Multi-cultural heritage volunteers needed

MCAS Miramar is holding its first ever Multi-cultural Heritage celebration and is seeking volunteers to share part of their culture. They need people to display materials from the following cultures: women's history, Hispanic, Native American, African American, Jewish, Asian/Pacific and European heritage.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Phillips, COMCABWEST Equal Opportunity Advisor at 577-1269.

## Operation Identification Program initiated

The station Crime Prevention section has recently added the Operation Identification Program to protect its Marines, Sailors and civilians aboard the installation. Owners of high value properties are encouraged to participate. For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Butler at 577-6341.

## Marines encouraged to learn about Black history

February is Black History Month. Unit leaders are encouraged to educate their Marines about the achievements of African Americans in the Marine Corps and to observe events and community service programs. For more informaiton, contact your local Equal Opportunity Advisor.

## Mira Mesa youth track and field holds sign-ups

The Mira Mesa Youth Track and Field team is conducting sign-ups for youths ages 7-18, Saturday and Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Recreation Center. The center is located at 8575 New Salem St. in Mira Mesa. The six-month season costs \$60 per child, which includes sports insurance. For more information, call (858) 655-4136 days and (858) 530-9867 evenings or e-mail at [mmmissiles@hotmail.com](mailto:mmmissiles@hotmail.com).

## Healthy Heart Fun Run participants needed

Marine Corps Community Services is conducting a Las Vegas Healthy Heart Fun Run Feb. 24 at 11:15 a.m. at the Fitness Center. MCCS Semper Fit is also holding a nutrition brief Feb. 29 at 8 a.m. at the base the-

ater here.

The brief will kick off the month of March, which is Nutrition Awareness Month. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Wallencheck at 577-7963 or Anne Panattoni at 577-4157.

## All-Marine ski team trials scheduled

In preparation for the CISM Ski Championships March 20-25 in Saalfelden, Austria, the following Armed Forces Ski Trials will be held:

- Cross-country Trials, Tuesday through Feb. 22, at Camp Ripley, Mont.
- Giant Slalom Trials, Feb. 29-March 3, at Stowe, Vt.

For more information, call Bob Stopp, MCAS Miramar Athletic Director, at 577-4127.

## Firefighters hold charity golf tournament

The Miramar Firefighters union is sponsoring a charity golf tournament here March 1, at 9 a.m. The proceeds go to benefit the San Diego Burn Institute.

Marines can sign-up for single person competition or as a team. There is an entry fee of \$50 per person. The cost includes: green fee, cart, T-shirt, first and second place awards, closest to the pin on front and back nine, longest drive on two holes and a raffle ticket.

Entry forms can be obtained from the base fire station here, however there is only enough space for 72 participants. All entry forms are due Feb. 20. For more information, call Mark Weimann at 577-6137.

## Lunch special served

Have a refreshing change of pace for lunch at the Enlisted/SNCO Club. Lunch is served daily with a fish fry on Fridays. Also, try the prime rib dinner specials every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lunch ranges from \$4.25 for Beef Teriyaki to \$5.50 for Sirloin Steak. Dinners are \$6.25, and if you see the Sergeant Major, he'll buy your favorite beverage! What a deal, dial 577-4825 for more information.

## Motorcycle safety instructors sought

The safety office is looking for qualified individuals to become motorcycle safety instructors. Interested Marines need to have two years left on station, currently own and frequently operate a motorcycle, a satisfactory driving record and the ability to speak to a large group of people.

Marines interested can e-mail Dan Jaquez at [jaquezdl@mail.miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:jaquezdl@mail.miramar.usmc.mil).

## Pool has new hours

Additional lap swim hours have been added at the 50 meter base swimming pool. The new hours are:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 a.m.
- Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.





# WING NOTES



**An Operational Overview of 3d MAW  
Units Stationed Aboard MCAS Miramar**

• MAG-16 • MAG11 • MACG-38 • MWSS-373

## MAG-16

• **MALS-16 “Forerunners”:** The squadron has detachments of 30 or more Marines providing aviation maintenance and supply support to Marine Aircraft Group 16 squadrons deployed aboard the *USS Bon Homme Richard* and in Okinawa, Japan.

• **HMM-161 “Greyhawks”:** The Greyhawks continue a rigorous flight hour program as squadron pilots and aircrew accrue the host of qualifications they will need for the squadron’s upcoming assignment as the Aviation Combat Element of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

• **HMM-165 “White Knights”:** A four-helicopter detachment will deploy to Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., for Night Vision Goggle training. White Knights remaining at Miramar will fire the M-16A2 service rifle to attain annual marksmanship qualification requirements.

• **HMM-163 “Ridgerunners”:** Ridgerunners will deploy to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to conduct defensive maneuver and electronic warfare training. In addition, the squadron will conduct low-light level Night Vision Goggle training and provide troop lift support during the Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration at the MCAS Yuma air show.

• **HMM-166 “Sea Elk”:** The Sea Elk are currently embarked aboard the *USS Bon Homme Richard* for a six-month Western Pacific deployment. The squadron is serving as the Aviation Combat Element for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

• **HMH-361 “Flying Tigers”:** Flying Tigers will be busy supporting ground units aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton by providing aviation support for parachute, fast rope, troop lift and external lift operations. Additionally, the squadron will be represent the CH-53E community at the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Air Show.

• **HMH-465 “War Horses”:** War Horse pilots and aircrew will demonstrate the versatility of the CH-53E Super Stallion this week, performing parachute, fast rope, Night Vision Goggle aerial refueling, and NVG external lift missions.

• **HMH-462 “Heavy Haulers”:** The Heavy Haulers are currently deployed to Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Unit Deployment Program. During the deployment, the squadron will provide heavy lift support to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

• **HMH-466 “Wolf Pack”:** About 70 Marines and four squadron aircraft will be attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 Monday. The detachment will augment HMM-161, which will serve as the Aviation Combat Element of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Remaining Wolf Pack pilots and aircrew will navigate the night sky practicing Night Vision Goggle tactics.

## MWSS-373

• **MWSS-373:** The squadron continues to support the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at the Weapons Tactics Instructors course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. The squadron is also scheduled to conduct a change-of-command ceremony for their commanding officer Thursday.

## MAG-11

• **MALS-11 “Devilfish”:** The Devilfish have a detachment deployed aboard the *USS John C. Stennis* supporting VMFA-314, and another deployed to Iwakuni, Japan, with VMFA-232, and one with VMFAT-101 at a Weapons Training Instructor course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

• **VMFAT-101 “Sharpshooters”:** The Sharpshooters are performing air-to-air, air-to-ground and close-air support training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

• **VMFA (AW)-121 “Green Knights”:** The Green Knights are preparing for a deployment to Kuwait, as part of Operation Southern Watch.

• **VMGR-352 “Raiders”:** The Raiders are performing aerial refueling for VMFA (AW)-225 at Kan Moa, Calif., and for HMH-361 at Sun Moa, Calif. They also have an aerial delivery mission for Sea Air Land Team 5 at Damneck, Va.

• **VMFA (AW)-225 “The Vikings”:** The Vikings are flying multi-plane engagement exercises with F-5 “Tigers” from MCAS Yuma, Ariz., there. They will also have two pilots scheduled to go through Air Combat Maneuvers qualifications at Yuma.

• **VMFA-232 “Red Devils”:** The Red Devils remain deployed to Iwakuni, Japan, as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

• **VMFA-242 “Bats”:** The Bats are flying air-to-air and air-to-ground training here.

• **VMFA-314 “Black Knights”:** The Black Knights remain deployed aboard the *USS John C. Stennis* during a six-month Western Pacific deployment.

• **VMFA-323 “Death Rattlers”:** The Death Rattlers have several pilots conducting Air Combat Tactics Instructor certification work-ups and two pilots at the “Top Gun” school at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. They are also providing close-air-support to an Air Force tactical F-16 squadron here.

## MACG-38

• **MTACS-38:** The squadron will hold a Theater Battle Management Core System Joint Fielding Acceptance Test and Fire Support Coordination course all week at the Tactical Air Command Center building here.

• **MASS-3:** The squadron has Marines at Wilcox rifle and pistol ranges taking care of annual qualifications this week. They are also scheduled to conduct exercises in preparation for an upcoming Combat Arms Exercise and a deployment to the Weapons Tactics Instructors course.

• **3d LAAD:** The battalion is wrapping up a maintenance safety stand-down and preparing for cold weather training this week.

• **MWCS-38:** Alpha Company Marines recently returned from a fun day of skiing at Big Bear. The trip was a reward of sorts for a job well-done for their participation in a I Marine Expeditionary Force communications exercise. Today, eight MWCS-38 Marines will do battle against other Group 38 teams in a boxing smoker, which is taking place across from the station theater here. MWCS-38 noncommissioned officers are at MCRD San Diego today, where they are participating in NCO PME day.

## Reflections — Black history not forgotten in today’s Marine Corps

by Flight Jacket Staff

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Chesty Puller, Dan Daly, John A. Lejeune, Charles C. Krulak – these names are replete in the history of the United States Marine Corps. Legendary heroes whose deeds are passed down to young officer candidates and enlisted recruits alike. Many Marines find it very fulfilling to identify with Marine heroes who also share the same ethnic background and heritage as themselves.

“Don’t get me wrong, they’re the venerable icons of Marine Corps history and tradition,” said Master Sgt. Keith S. Hammond, administrative chief for Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area. “I am proud to serve in the same Corps as they did. However, I also want to recognize the great contributions of heroes from my ethnic background. The people pictured on the wall before you are “Pathfinders” whose names and

achievements I wish had been mentioned during my boot camp periods of instruction.”

In his small 8-feet by 10-feet unassuming office, mounted on the bulkheads, are Marines of African American heritage. Pictured at the summit of Hammond’s “Pathfinder Wall” is Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen, the first African American to reach the rank of a general officer in the Marine Corps, who retired as a lieutenant general, and is still highest-ranking African American Marine ever.

“I am asked all the time to identify those faces on the bulkhead,” explained Hammond, who is a veteran with 19 years of service to the Corps. “Many young black Marines (and some, not so young) are unable to identify some of the most storied and celebrated African American Marines in the history of our Corps. That is why I have this wall – to educate and motivate all Marines who pass this way.”

As the master sergeant spoke, silently watching from the walls were the service hardened, steely

eyes of Sgt. Maj. Edgar Huff, the first African American U.S. Marine to be promoted and serve in the rank of sergeant major. Joining Huff was the encouraging gaze of Major Gen. Charles Bolden Jr., the first Marine astronaut of African American heritage. His legacy is not only wearing stars, but “touching” them as well. Major Gen. Bolden is currently the deputy commander, U.S. Forces Japan.

“These are the men that I am reminded of when I look in the mirror. We all need positive role models to emulate and help us keep our paths straight,” said Hammond, a native of Providence, R. I. “We are all Marines and share a common bond, but if we don’t educate and celebrate our cultural differences, we cheat ourselves as an organization.”

Just then, a young African American corporal entered the office and glanced up at the “Pathfinder’s Wall.” He met the gaze of Maj. Gen. Clifford Stanley, presently the commanding general, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat

Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif. Also looking out from the wall, he met the riveting gaze of Col. Gilda Jackson, the senior Marine Corps female officer of African American heritage.

“Corporal, take a look at the wall behind you, and tell me how many of those Marines you can name,” said Hammond. After a long search, the Marine with highly spit-shinned boots, and stiff uniform creases, somewhat hesitatingly offered that he believed one of them was an astronaut, but he didn’t know his name.

Hammond made no apologies for the history lesson he was about to bestow on this young leatherneck. He went on to name and give the legacy of each of the Marines on his wall. “Success leaves footprints and these Marines walked the walk.

“And just below Maj. Gen. Bolden’s picture is Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields, director of the Marine Corps Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps. You see Devildog, each of us needs to look back and

find an example of someone just like us. These Marines before you are just like you, and they have shown by example that you can achieve your goals, despite any obstacles,” Hammond explained.

Hammond added that the Marine Corps is very diverse, and it is that diversity that makes today’s Corps strong. He challenges all Marines to identify “pathfinders” from their particular ethnic group and learn from their example. Then pass it on.

Speaking of which, Cpl. Tony Ladd, administrative clerk for Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, has a clear picture of his staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “Well he is simply good to go. He is very open, educated and well spoken. What really motivates me is that he is a family man who really cares about his children and wife.”

Ladd, who plays on the sta-

**See History, Page 10**



photo by Lance Cpl. William Hawkins

**Los Angeles native, Lance Cpl. Isidro Maximo, mortarman, 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, takes a knee to search for the enemy Feb. 2, during a patrol at the Army's Kahukus Training Area, in Hawaii.**

## On patrol with the 15th MEU

by Lance Cpl. William Hawkins

PAO, MCB Kaneohe Bay

KAHUKUS TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Marines from Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/4 spent four days patrolling the forests of the Army's Kahukus Training Area in Hawaii as part of the sustainment training conducted by the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

"This isn't a normal training evolution for Weapons Company," said company commander Capt. Stefan Bien. Weapons Marines rarely patrol on foot because they specialize in anti-armor weapons and mortars — weapons too heavy to be man-portable, such as the M-47 Dragon Anti-Armor Weapon System, M-252 81mm Medium Extended Range Mortar, and the Humvee-mounted Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missiles.

The Marines patrolled in squads day and night, camouflaging themselves with face paints and foliage, and carrying little more than their weapons, water, and communications and navigation equipment. They ranged for miles through the humid forests and hills. The terrain was new to many of the Marines, which was challenging and beneficial, according to Lance Cpl. James M. Dubovos, an anti-tank assaultman with BLT 1/4 Dragon Platoon.

"It's better when you don't know where you are and you have to rely on your training to navigate," he said. "Around Camp Pendleton, you can game it because you know the terrain features and it's no surprise. Here, you can get lost if you don't use your training."

The Kahukus turf is not jungle, but it is thicker than the Marines were used to and offered a lot of variables, said Dubovos.

The tangled vegetation and steep ravines created obstacles that sometimes caused the Marines to improvise the patrol routes planned by patrol leaders, explained Cpl. Jason Porter, 81 mm mortar squad leader.

"This has been a great patrolling package for us," said Dubovos. "If you're in combat, patrolling is one of the most important things you can do. It makes our unit tighter."

## COMMARFORPAC encourages first-term Marines reenlistment

*An open letter from Lieutenant General Frank Libutti, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, to all MARFORPAC first-term Marines approaching the expiration of their current contracts.*

Marines,

The Marine Corps is challenged with re-enlisting a higher percentage of first-term Marines this fiscal year than we have ever needed to re-enlist before. There are many complicated reasons why this is so — the bottom line is, the future of our enlisted force structure, promotions and assignment opportunities depend on our meeting our first-term re-enlistment requirements this year.

So, what does this mean to you? Understandably, you are concerned about your situation and your future. As your Commander, I ask that you do one thing when contemplating that future. Go somewhere quiet, where you won't be disturbed, and ask yourself, "Why did I join the Corps?" Could it have been:

· *To see if you had what it takes. Few are good enough to earn the title, "Marine."*

· *To do something you knew you could be proud of... something to earn the respect of your family and friends.*

· *To strike out on your own ... to do something challenging where you held your success or failure in your own hands.*

There are many reasons young men and women choose to become Marines. If your reasons were among the above, you have accomplished those goals. So where do you go from here? Have you thought about new, greater challenges and goals for yourself? As Marines progress in rank, responsibilities and challenges also become greater. A Marine's first enlistment instills the fundamental qualities of *Leadership, Initiative, Courage, Poise, Self-Confidence, Self-Reliance, Self-Direction, Self-Discipline*. Second and subsequent enlistments hone those qualities into razor-sharp tools that will enable you to go anywhere and do anything.

There are many incentives for re-enlisting. Some are tangible and some are not. There are many ways to pursue a higher education while you are on active duty, continuing to draw full pay and allowances. The 4.8 percent pay raise we received Jan. 1 was the largest military pay raise in 18 years; more raises are planned for the future. Marines don't stay for the paycheck, though — Marines stay for the same reasons they became Marines in the first place.

The choice is ultimately your own. Your decision to stay Marine will benefit you and strengthen our Corps. But whatever path you choose, never forget, you are a Marine forever.

Semper Fi!

Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti  
COMMARFORPAC





## Miramar floats by Islanders, 104-98, in neck-to-neck finish

by Pfc. Brandon Caton

PAO, MCAS Miramar

The Miramar basketball team, who remains nameless until they secure a championship victory, sailed past the stranded Naval Base Coronado Islanders with a 104-98 win here Feb. 1 at the station gym.

Both teams treated their fans with a heated contest, staying about 10 points away from each other the whole game. Michael Gulin, family member and a Miramar basketball team fan, initially viewed the contest with a little doubt.

"It was so exciting to watch. I thought for sure it was fixed. You know, the type of thing where those cigar-chomping bookies throw out a close game for the betting crowd so they'll think they saw some action before they go home broke," he explained. "Then I remembered that nobody's gambling any real money on base games, and that these are just two evenly-matched teams hustling like the losers were facing the electric chair. If a pro championship game turned out that good, it would be discussed in bars 10 years from now."

Regardless of similar testimonies from other fans, the first two quarters of the game were pretty undistinguished. The differences between Miramar and the Islanders' playing styles kept it from being boring, along with two crowd-raising slam-dunks by Miramar players Michael Watson and Roman Jones.

The Jones dunk put the score at 31-21, and was particularly humiliating for the Islanders. The ball was ripped from an Islander player's hands and passed to Jones before even one Islander defender made it past the half-court line.

The Islanders' approach was an interesting answer to Miramar's spastic fast breaks and swarming defense. Islander Coach Jim Duncan slowed his offense at the game's start and relied on the infallible long-range shooting of deadeye snipers like James Fuller and Daryll Williams.

The Islanders leaned on this plan for most of the game. Stunning back-to-back three-pointers in the beginning of period two upped the score to a 39-31 Islander lead. Miramar forward Tony Laad caught his breath and somehow scored three times with no Islander protest, landing six points for Miramar and drawing a couple of fouls in the process. The Islanders relinquished their lead, putting the halftime score at 51-40.

Miramar retired to the racquetball area to discuss the game plan, and reportedly were administered a rump-chewing for the vast number of personal fouls incurred by the team. Duncan had no apparent desire for privacy, and commenced to alternately bawl out and patiently instruct his players in preparation for the second half.

The teams changed courts. No excuses there, but Miramar Coach James Stewart must have said something right. The Islanders had great under-the-net moves, but Miramar scored so invisibly and effortlessly that fans had to keep a constant eye on the court or they'd miss 10 good shots in a minute's time.

As the clock ticked down, points seemed to add themselves to the total: at 16:30, the score was 62-50; 14:30 saw a 66-52 Miramar lead; exactly two minutes later, it was 73-60.

The Islanders called a time-out to slow things down. Duncan could be heard over the din of the

flightline test cells as he exhorted his team to stick to the game plan.

Right after the buzzer, Kirk Williams hit another set of consecutive field goals for the Islanders and closed the points gap to 85-75. They were only down 10 points now.

This attempt had some kind of mysterious negative effect on Miramar's game. They resembled unfed thoroughbreds out there, scurrying sluggishly to stop the offensive onslaught of their opponents.

With long jumpers and lay-ups made possible by ruthless Islander rebounding, Miramar's hard work was reduced to a miserable 87-85 lead. They didn't help themselves by fouling almost every chance they got.

Two successful Islander free throws tied up the score, 89-89. Both teams only had three minutes to overcome the other, and everybody at the gym felt the strain. From then on, however, Miramar and the Islanders just fouled each other into another tie score of 95-95.

Then Laad, breaking toward the basket with a ball stolen from the Islanders unbelieving mitts, nailed a two-point jumper. Before the shot clock had a chance to reset itself, Islander center Williams answered with the same thing.

With the score at 99-97, both teams called another time out. The rest of the game was scored by free throws, and the Islanders dug their own grave by trying to stop the clock with fouls. Miramar took the game with a final score of 104-98.



photo by Pfc. Brandon Caton

**Savor the flavor: (Above left) Miramar's fast breaks were the typical style Feb. 1, as they matched up against the Coronado Islanders at the station gym. (Above) Miramar baller Michael Watson goes for a lay-up against an onslaught of Islanders. (Below) Watson takes it to the hole once again, showboating from the rim a bit longer so fans can get a better look at his first quarter dunk.**





*They fly into action  
to suppress the fiendish,  
and support the friendly,  
but their maintenance crew...*



## *Keeps the rotors turning*



photo by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

Inspections are performed regularly on Marine Corps aircraft to ensure optimum performance. (Left) Sgt. Maj. R. L. Mitchell, HMH-361 squadron sergeant major, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Jeff A. Davis, HMH-361 maintenance chief (right to left), check the hydraulics on a CH-53 Super Stallion for a pre-flight inspection during the Marine Division Tactics Course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. (Above left) A flightline Marine refuels a CH-53 during a "hot seat," in which the aircraft lands, is inspected and refueled in a matter of minutes, before lifting off again. (Above) Lance Cpl. Kevin C. Keown, HMH-361 airframes, looks over a CH-53 Super Stallion's hydraulic system during a daily inspection. Up to six Marines check the aircraft prior to the pilot and co-pilot's pre-flight inspection.

by Cpl. Aubrey Bell

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Maintenance crews are never the focus of the Hollywood image of Marine Corps Aviation, but without them, these warbirds of steel would be permanently grounded.

During a recent Marine Division Tactics Course aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., the maintenance and support crews of Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 played the quiet but vital supporting role. Maintenance Marines kept four Flying Tiger CH-53E helicopters going through 64 long hours in the air, without a hitch.

"They make sure the aircraft is good to go," said Capt. Bart Ludlow, a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot. "If it's not right, the QA [Quality Assurance representative] comes out and ensures everything is within proper measure."

Trust in the maintenance crews is a major factor for the pilots when they get ready to fly, a trust Ludlow has in his crew. "We have a very good "checks and balance" system inside the maintenance department. I trust them to do their jobs, and they trust me to pilot the plane. When we're in the air, my crew chiefs do an excellent job of ensuring the aircraft is functioning properly."

The checks and balances come from six Marines inspecting the aircraft before a flight, and the pilot and co-pilot inspecting just prior to take-off.

"There are a lot of components on the aircraft which need servicing and repair," said Gunnery Sgt. James D. Mott, HMH-361 Quality Assurance chief. Mott oversees the maintenance of aircraft and ensures the Safety Flight Components are inspected.

"Maintenance consists of Airframe mechanics, who check the hydraulics and structure; Avionic crews, who take care of all the

electronics; and Flightline Marines, who oversee the rotors, among other duties. There are also corrosion control and ordnance Marines, and crew chiefs inspecting," said Mott. "When there are repairs or inspections done, the crew chiefs' Collateral Duty Inspectors witness the work and sign it off, making sure the maintenance is done properly." According to Mott, the elevated necessity of having flight-worthy aircraft during an exercise or operation doesn't change the way inspections are done. Procedures are the same on deployment as they are back in the rear.

A helicopter's maintenance begins with daily inspections, according to Lance Cpl. Kevin C. Keown, HMH-361 airframes mechanic. Daily inspections consist of servicing hydraulics, tires, filters, electrical charges, landing gear, airframes, electronics and rotors.

"If nothing is wrong, the inspections take about 20 minutes," said Keown. "If we find a problem, it depends on how fast we can get it repaired or replaced."

Keown believes in doing his job right, because when he checks a plane out and says it's okay, he is sending up his friends and fellow Marines.

Staff Sgt. William F. Wallace, HMH-361 aircraft maintenance controller, who plans maintenance on the aircraft, fills in flight schedules for maintenance requirements. According to Wallace, about 22 to 40 maintenance hours go into every hour of flight. However, a lot of that time is taken up at the supply line, ordering parts.

"In a detachment situation it's a lot less, because we bring everything we might need with us. If something breaks and we've run out of parts, then it slows down the process," said Wallace. "But these birds are very reliable in these situations."

*Pilots hone skills before heading to fast-paced, close-quarters operations of MEU which demand ...*

## Near perfect performance

by Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

PAO, MCAS Miramar

The United States Marine Corps is known as the Nation's 911 Force. The flexible and powerful force of a forward-deployed Marine Expeditionary Unit is largely responsible they provided to establishing and maintaining this reputation.

MEU's are a versatile combination of both ground and air assets capable of a wide range of missions. "To have that kind of fire-power available so quickly is incredible," said Capt. Jan M. January, a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, a squadron currently preparing to deploy as the Aviation Combat Element of the 13th MEU.

However, the power of the MEU is only possible by overcoming the challenges of ship-based aviation operations. A Weapons, Tactics Instructor and Night Systems Instructor, January is familiar with the challenges in nearly any environment. In fact, January is qualified to fly in nearly any day or night mission and his qualifications require him to train and qualify newer pilots to do the same.

Among the many missions Marine Corps CH-46E pilots fly, January said ship-based operations are the most challenging. "They say the most dangerous work place is the flight deck," said January. He said the risks are just as many for fixed- or rotary-wing alike.

Strict training is required to prepare CH-46E pilots to face this challenging environment.

Each pilot is required to perform five successful field carrier landings within 30 days of attempting a landing at sea. Field carrier landings are landings pilots make on a pad shaped and marked identical to the deck of an Naval Amphibious Assault Ship.

After pilots have completed five FCLPs, they must perform five correct landings aboard ship before they are qualified to carry passengers aboard the aircraft.

"Just landing on the boat itself is hard," said January. "It's a science of numbers." The challenge begins by finding the ship. "It's hard to find the boat," he said, noting that visibility is often limited by the ocean haze. "Before you know it, you're right on top of it."

In order to execute a correct landing, pilots jockey the aircraft into the correct pattern beginning nearly a half-mile away from the ship. Pilots must calculate the wind pres-



photo by Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

**Pilots from HMM-161 perform field carrier landing practices aboard the air station before heading to sea to attain the carrier landing qualifications they will need during the squadron's upcoming assignment as the Aviation Combat Element for the 13th MEU. Ship-based aviation operations are among the most challenging missions for Marine Corps rotary- and fixed-wing pilots. In order to carry passengers, CH-46E pilots must complete five FCLPs and five shipboard landings.**

ence, the forward air speed and rate of closure to the ship to near perfection in order to execute a carrier landing.

"If you're too fast, you won't have the power to slow down," said January. A pilot coming in too fast is waved off by the air boss or else the aircraft would fly right into the island on the flight deck. "If you're too slow, you'll be using all your power just to stay out of the water."

Any extra power pilots may have available is further restricted by the power required to lift the weight of passengers and cargo. On average, he said the pilot has just about four percent of power to play with.

This challenge is further complicated when the pilot takes information from the crew chief, the air controller aboard ship and his squadron's ready room. January said the

See **Boat Ops**, Page 11



# ‘Devilfish’ key volunteers: *Full-time, no pay, all reward*

by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 celebrated their annual appreciation lunch for key volunteers during a luncheon held Saturday at the squadron.

For one week in February every year, this group of dedicated men, women and Marines Marine Corps-wide are recognized for their support for deployed Marines and their families.

Key volunteers offer a number of programs and services, some unique for a squadron. MALS-11 in particular has started a “welcome aboard” and “new baby” program for their Marines. They hold monthly key volunteer meetings and functions for the families.

However, MALS-11’s functions are not restricted to their own unit. “They open their arms to everyone. If we have a Christmas party, then we invite the family members of all deployed squadrons,” said Sgt. Vernon Pruden, MALS-11 noncommissioned officer-in-charge of operations and key volunteer noncommissioned officer.

The key volunteers’ purpose is to bridge the communication gap between deployed Marines and their families back home. They also provide information on resources and programs, such as the Navy Relief program and others available to family members.

“They pool information (for spouses) because when things come up they do not always know who to turn to first,” said Pruden. They also provide a support network in the event that a problem arises for the family of a deployed Marine, said Pruden.

Educating spouses or “pooling information” helps protect family members against unexpected problems.

The key volunteers also give spouses an opportunity to talk with others who have been through deployments and help those who have not been through it before.

Not only are the family members assisted, but so are the deployed Marines. “They give Marines more peace of mind knowing there’s someone looking out for their families,” said Pruden.

Some recent events MALS-11 key volunteers have participated in include: the Marine Corps Community Services greeting card contest, where the key volunteers took first place, hosting Christmas parties and throwing welcome home parties for Marines returning from a six-month deployment.

Aside from being able to enjoy the events, spouses get to be a part of the program by becoming a key volunteer. One woman said she looks forward to complet-

ing her training as a key volunteer. “It’s going to help keep me busy and it helps you get to know other people who are going through the same thing,” said Bernadette Barrett, a future key volunteer and day care provider. However, the best thing for Barrett is being there to help others, she adds.

Because it is a volunteer organization, this group of individuals are often involved out of love for their fellow spouses and to help them through the time apart from their families.

“It’s a labor of love and the most poorly paid job for people who are making a difference in other people’s lives,” said Lt. Col. Walter Augustin, MALS-11 commanding officer.



photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

**Lt. Col. Walter Augustin, MALS-11 commanding officer, hands Denise Spindler and Rebecca Smith certificates upon completing their training to become key volunteers for the squadron.**



**MAKE TRACKS  
TO OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.miramar.usmc.mil](http://www.miramar.usmc.mil)



## Sergeant Major's Corner

Some time ago the question of being able to purchase uniforms online was asked. Headquarters Marine Corps has been looking into this since it was brought up. Here are a couple of questions and answers that may answer some of the questions you may have about this:

Q. What will the new Web site ([www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org)) do for Marines?

A. The new Web site is an information site. Marines can go to this site and find a downloadable file containing a uniform catalog, order forms and price list for enlisted and officer uniforms. Orders can be phoned or faxed.

Q. Where is the Web site going in the future (full online shopping, maybe)?

A. In late spring, a fully integrated site will be stood up, which will be accessed through the Exchange Catalog to provide Marines with the ability to order their uniforms online from anywhere as long as they have Internet access. They can continue to order uniforms using the 800 numbers connected to the 24-hour uniform support center. Because the site we are going to use is already a fully operating three commerce site (The Exchange Catalog), our Marines will have the ability to shop online for items other than military clothing.

### Miramar Exchange update

By summer it is expected that Deferred Payment Plan cards will be honored for uniform clothing sales at our Uniform Center.

It has come to my attention that there are many Marines and Sailors that are not aware that our clubs are serving daily lunch specials. Entrees such as Beef Teriyaki with rice; Chicken/Beef Fajitas with rice & beans; Cajun Catfish, Lasagna; French Dip sandwich and Baby Back Ribs are just a sampling of what you are missing. Drop by from 11a.m. - 1:30p.m. and support your club.

February has been chosen as the month to celebrate Black history. We as Marines, cherish our history for it is steeped in traditions and honor. The door was opened for Blacks to serve in all branches of the Armed Forces on June 25, 1941, when President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No.8802 establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission with this statement: "In affirming the policy of full participation in the defense program by all persons regardless of color, race, creed, or national origin, and directing certain action in furtherance of said policy...all departments of the government, including the Armed Forces, shall lead the way in erasing discrimination over color or race."

I will buy lunch at the club for the first five Marines, sergeant and below, who emails me with the correct answer to these two questions..."When were the first Blacks enlisted in the Marine Corps? Name at least two of them?"



## Valentine's Events

Celebrate Valentine's Day with MCCS. Officers, don't miss a Valentine's Dinner and Dance at the O' Club today from 7 p.m. - midnight. Enjoy an Italian buffet with a pasta bar, plus DJ music. The dinner and dance are only \$10 per person. Unit seating will be available. For reservations, call 577-4808. Teens can dance the night away at a Valentine's Dance at the Teen Center, tonight, 8 p.m. to midnight. Refreshments and drawings will cap off the fun. Admission is only \$2. For more information, call 577-4136. Finally, treat your sweetie to a Sweetheart's Dinner at Pizza Pizzazz on Monday, 7 to 10 p.m. Enjoy full service dining along with live music. Dinner includes steak, potato, salad, cake and roses for all the ladies. The cost is \$15 per couple. For information or reservations, call 577-4825. Happy Valentine's Day!

## Sports Shorts

Interested in the Men's Varsity Volleyball team? Sign-ups are being taken now for the February tryouts. To participate, sign up at the main gym, or call the Sports Office at 577-1202.

The 50-meter pool is now open additional lap swimming hours. Now swim on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the pool at 577-4140.

## Battle of the DJs

The Battle of the DJs returns to the E-

## Flu,

continued from page 2

the flu, but there are several things a Marine can do the prevent getting sick. To prevent getting the flu, Marines should get plenty of rest, eat well and exercise regularly. The flu shot usually protects Marines. Over time the

## History,

continued from page 4

tion basketball team added, "I would have known very little about the heritage and contributions of these African American Marines had it not been for the efforts and dedication of Master Sgt. Hammond. The contributions of all these great men and woman really make me feel proud, and give me an added boost to strive for."

In retrospect, Hammond believes that many Marines of today owe a debt of gratitude to men like Sgt. Maj. "Hashmark" Johnson who trained segregated Black Marine recruits at Montford Point, N.C., in the 60's, and for whom Camp Johnson is named. "Men like Lt. Gen. Petersen, Huff and Johnson persevered and succeeded in the Corps at a time when the color of their skin was disdained outside the Corps and often, from within," Hammond related.

As to why a "Pathfinders Wall," perhaps Gunnery Sgt. Reginald Brown, G-4 projects senior noncommissioned officer, put it best in an analogy of his experience of recruiting in the Black community in the Los Angeles area. "Many African American folks from L-A did not have any concept of what it is to be a Marine. They just couldn't picture themselves as United States Marines," the gunny explained. "If I could have shown those young men the images pictured here on Master Sgt. Hammond's wall, well let's just say my mission would have been a great deal easier."

Ultimately, a trip down Marine Corps memory lane awaits any visitor to Hammond's professional abode. And yet,



**Free MCCS Movies**

•**Today:** *Man on the Moon (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (R)*, 8:45 p.m.

•**Saturday:** *Anna and the King (PG-13)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Bicentennial Man (PG)*, 9:15 p.m.

•**Sunday:** *Anna and the King (PG-13)*, 1 p.m.; *The World is Not Enough (PG-13)* 6:30 p.m.

*For more information, call 577-4143*

Club on St. Patty's Day, March 17. Amateur DJs are invited to battle it out to win a paid contract to DJ at the E-Club. All participants will receive souvenirs, and top DJs will win great prizes, including gift certificates for CDs. Advance sign-up is required to participate. To sign up, call 577-1936.

## Monte Carlo Night

It's back — Monte Carlo Night takes over the E-Club on Wednesday, February 16. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the games begin at 8 p.m.

Play black jack and craps with friendly dealers who teach you how to play — plus, it's only \$1 for \$500 in chips. At the end of the night, exchange your chips for entries to win great prizes, including a weekend getaway at Laughlin, Nevada. Gamble on fun at the E-Club! For more information, call 577-4820.

shot can build immunity to the flu. However, the best way a Marine can avoid getting the flu, is to follow preventive measures and take care of himself. By taking care of oneself, the immune system can grow strong and fight off the flu.

men like the Tuskegee Airmen, proudly poised in front of their fabled aircraft, the "Red Tailed P-51's" and retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, first African American chairman of the Joint Chief's of Staff, are given due space on the wall as pathfinders in their own right.

"Yeah, yeah, I know this is Black history month, but why do we have to have an excuse to write a story on this subject. I am proud to be a Marine, and I am proud to be an African American," Hammond added. "Everyday, these heroes remind me of their challenges and their sacrifices to make a way for me. It's up to me, to all of us, to live up to the standards they established and then.... Raise the bar! Their success lights the path, but is not the end of the road."

Additionally, there are two photos on the wall that are not well-known Marines. They are of an officer and an enlisted Marine taken from Marines Magazine. These photos represent the future. "I challenge young Marines to see themselves as successful and add to the legacy written up there under those photos." Centered on the wall is the following passage....

"The key to success — Expect more than others think is possible; dream more than others think is practical, risk more than others think is safe."

Hammond and his wife Elisa have two children, Shanon-Joi and Kyle Alexander. He and his family reside in Saber Springs, San Diego and plan to retire next year after 20 years of service. "I'll continue to mentor and motivate young people to dare to dream," he said.



**Boat Ops,**  
continued from page 8

calculation of numbers doesn't end until the helicopter is safely on the deck of the ship.

Pilots use onboard publications to calculate the wind calls given from the ship and carefully monitor the gauges all the way down.

The fast pace of MEU operations usually mean the pilot isn't landing on an open deck. January said pilots usually land between five to 10 feet from another aircraft.

When teaching this precision maneuver to new pilots, January said he reminds himself, "I was just there yesterday."

"It's easy to make mistakes, so we practice it a lot," he said. "Everybody's got to stay on top of their game."

After pilots have conquered the learning curve, January said they face the enemy of complacency. He said each pilot has to remember, "everyday you've got to work just as hard as the day before."

He said the risks of ship-based operations are counterweighted by the resulting flexible and powerful presence of the MEU. It's the MEU that makes our country and our Corps unique.

The MEU is capable of performing peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, non-combatant evacuation and many other missions within a few hours notice. "No other country can do that. Only the U.S. Marine Corps can. That's why we accept the risks," said January.

**MDTC,**  
continued from page 1

but they are planning a return trip in July, according to Wenger.

"This training improves the squadron because the officers who are here get to work the planning process, so they will get better at planning, which is key to mission success for any type of mission," said Wenger. "And, we get to fly with other squadrons and integrate ourselves with other assets, all working together in the same air space. That gives us a better awareness."

The MDTC training is referred to as a 'Train the Trainer' scenario. One part of the course trains squadron pilots as Night Systems Instructors, who will help their squadron train at night on defensive measures instruction. Other aspects, such as TERF and TRAP, gives the pilots insight into defensive maneuvers they can take back to the junior pilots of the squadron.

"This applies to our mission because our pilots understand the way the CH-53 operates in this type of environment with this type of planning process, and these types of missions," said Wenger.

During the squadron's time here, its pilots have met mission requirements that allow them to fly in close proximity to the terrain, using it to mask the CH-53 from detection; tactical aircraft recoveries; desert landings; defensive maneuvering through the desert and surrounding mountains; personnel insertions; external operations conducted at night, and range navigation. Many of these

are new experiences for some of the pilots, according to Wenger.

As the rotors kicked up the dust of the Arizona desert for the flight home, the Flying Tigers have achieved their goal in the evolution, keeping the training realistic, and proving they are in the upper crust of Marine Corps aviation.

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**Wenger,**  
continued from page 2

Will, as an advisor to the Royal Saudi Arabian Navy in 1988 and '89," said Wenger, who also provided air lifts during disaster relief efforts in the Hawaiian Islands.

Wenger now focuses on relaying his experience to newer pilots. "My next goal is to successfully train the Flying Tigers so we can meet our commitments which are to the Southern California Marine Expeditionary Unit Detachment. We will send out, then train the Det for the 31st MEU, and we'll train the main body for a unit deployment," said Wenger. "I want to train them so they are tactically proficient and operate safety so we have no mishaps or injuries of personnel."

Wenger's focus during the MDTC wasn't on his achievement, but on the performance of his Marines. "This has been a successful Det," said Wenger. "The Flying Tigers are doing well, maintaining the aircraft well and we are getting good training out of it. I'm looking forward to getting back and working with MAWTS-1 again."

**Courts Martial**

- A private from MAG-11, 3d MAW was found guilty by Special Court-martial under the UCMJ of Article 121: larceny. The private was sentenced to six months confinement, forfeiture of \$4,020, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.
- A sergeant from MWSS-373, MWSG-37 was found guilty by Special Court-martial under the UCMJ of Article 120: one specification of carnal knowledge; Article 128: assault and Article 134: indecent acts. The sergeant was sentenced to confinement for 140 days, reduction to private, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.
- A lance corporal from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCABWA was found guilty by General Court-martial under the UCMJ of Article 107: making a false official statement; Article 121: wrongful appropriation and larceny; Article 123: forgery; and Article 134: false pretence. The lance corporal was sentenced to 5 years confinement, reduction to private, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a \$7,000 fine and a Dishonorable Discharge.